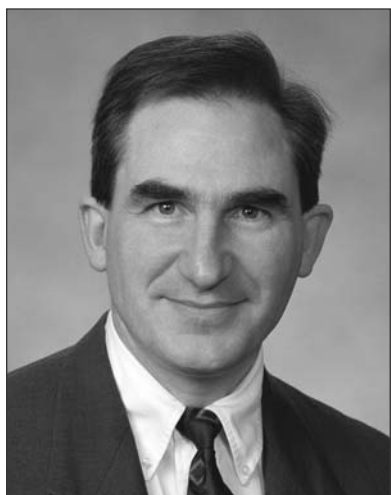


Senator **Jim Kastama**

WASHINGTON STATE SENATE | 25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

WINTER 2003



How you can reach me

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COMMITTEES:

Highways & Transportation

Government Operations &
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Joint Select Committee on
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Governor's Competitiveness
Council

Dear Friends,

It's no mystery what's happening in Olympia.

Within two weeks of the opening of the 2003 legislative session, there were nearly a dozen rallies and protests outside the Capitol—including a massive demonstration by more than 20,000 Washington teachers. This single fact dramatically illustrates the tension surrounding the worst state budget deficit in 20 years. The last time the deficit was this bad—in 1982—the Legislature resorted to imposing a sales tax on food.

These voices are not lost on legislators, who are spending long hours discussing how to balance conflicting budgetary needs with a critical lack of money to fund them.

Many of you have voiced your concerns to me over coffee, at a meeting of your local civic group, or at the playground while I was with my children. Your concerns target the key issues facing the Legislature this year—education, health care, transportation, and making government more accountable to taxpayers.

In each of these areas, I am working hard to forge a partial or whole solution. One thing is certain: It is time for new ideas—no matter which political party they come from. We must decide how best to use the funds we have to make Washington a good place to live, work, and raise a family.

There are still plenty of days left in the legislative session to make your voices heard. You can start by filling out the attached survey and mailing it back to me. I also encourage you to write, call, send an e-mail, or just drop by the Capitol like so many others before you have done.

Thanks for the opportunity to represent you.

Your Senator,

*Jim Kastama
25th Legislative District*

To all of you who are new to the 25th District due to redistricting, welcome!

Please take a moment to let me know your priorities by completing the attached survey. Feel free to contact my office anytime.

Here are what I believe to be the most **pressing** questions facing the Legislature this session:

Health care



Q: *How do we control soaring health care costs so that people can afford to buy health insurance? How do we prevent 60,000 individuals from being removed from the Basic Health Plan, as Gov. Locke has proposed?*

I will propose a fundamentally different approach to health care in Washington—a plan that will help the state get the most for its health-care dollar. Known as the Washington Health Care Recovery Act, it directs the state Health Care Authority to reassess what health services the state covers, and recommend how to restructure benefits to assure that as many people as possible are covered. The proposal is founded on preventative care, evidence-based medicine, health care efficiencies and individual responsibility.

Transportation



Q: *With the failure of Referendum 51, will the Legislature come back with a revised statewide transportation plan, or should it encourage local regions to develop their own transportation plans? Are there other cost-effective solutions?*

In transportation, the overwhelming defeat of Referendum 51 showed that voters want a different solution to our state's growing transportation crisis. As a veteran member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I will continue working on an alternative to R-51. To eliminate the congestion and accidents caused by large freight-trucks on our highways—and to ensure the efficient transfer of goods—I will also focus on ways to move freight to and from our ports more efficiently.

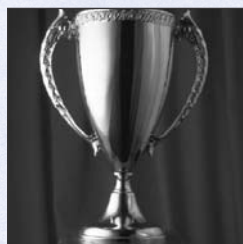
Education



Q: *How do we pay for voter-approved initiatives that gave teachers a cost-of-living increase and reduced class sizes?*

I am researching a dedicated funding source for Initiatives 732 and 728, which give teachers a cost-of-living-adjustment and devote additional money to reducing class sizes.

Government accountability



Q: *How can we ensure that people know their government is accountable and their tax dollars are being spent wisely?*

To make sure our state agencies function at their optimal level, I will propose that they be required to apply for the prestigious Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award from Congress. This award is reserved for the most respected companies in the world. Government agencies should try to copy the successful practices of these nationally lauded corporate stars. Easy-to-understand “report cards”—which score our state agencies for efficiencies—and regular performance audits must also become a permanent part of our government.

Survey
Please take a few moments
to answer yes or no
to the questions
on the following survey

25th District Survey

Please return by March 31, 2003

Transportation

If sufficient measures were enacted to assure that transportation dollars were spent wisely, would you support an increase in the state gas tax.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Trust in Government

If state agencies underwent *independent* performance audits, with the results easily available, would this increase your trust in government?

☐ Yes ☐ No

A Call From Your Senator?

Would you like a personal call from Sen. Kastama to discuss your issue of interest?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide your telephone number.

Phone number: _____

Comments

Education

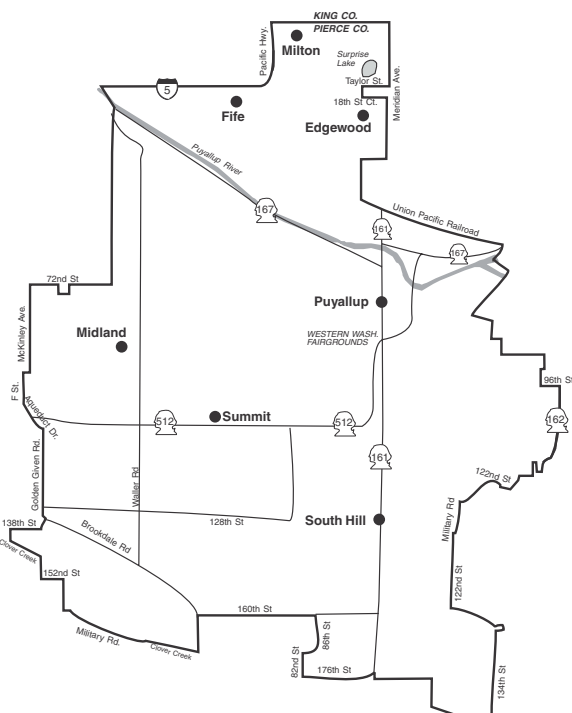
Would you be willing to pay additional sales tax to fund the annual cost-of-living raises for K-12 teachers promised under Initiative 732?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Gambling

Would you support the expansion of gambling—as long as the expansion happened only in places where minors under 21 years old weren't allowed?

☐ Yes ☐ No



25th Legislative District

Sen. Kastama represents the cities of Puyallup, Milton, and portions of Fife and Edgewood, and the communities of Midland and Summit/South Hill.



Please return with this panel on top

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Senator Jim Kastama

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Meet with Sen. Kastama

Sen. Kastama will hold two community forums in the 25th District on **Saturday, March 22.**

With Rep. Dawn Morrell
10:30 a.m. to noon
Puyallup Public Library
234 S Meridian, Puyallup

With Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Stahl Junior High School Commons
9610 168th St. E, Puyallup

Jim is known for his frankness in describing how government operates and is willing to share his insights into the workings of the 2003 legislative session. Come prepared to ask questions and provide your ideas on the issues that need our attention.



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Senator Jim Kastama

Questionnaire/Update

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